

# AB 2838 – COASTAL ENVIRONMENT MOTOR VEHICLE MITIGATION PROGRAM

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**Assemblywoman Fran Pavley**

**Coauthor: Senator Kuehl**

## IN BRIEF

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AB 2838 would provide a state-local funding option to address a range of environmental problems resulting from motor vehicles pollution and infrastructure in coastal and bay counties. AB 2838 authorizes the Coastal Environment Motor Vehicle Mitigation Program, administered by the State Coastal Conservancy, Department of Motor Vehicles, and participating counties, which would enable counties to opt into a dedicated funding source to support appropriate projects.

## THE ISSUE

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The increase in motor vehicles and related infrastructure in California's coastal counties, which contain 77% of the state's population, has outpaced the ability of state and local governments to address the effects on the environment. The number of miles driven annually over the past 20 years has increased at four times the rate of population growth, with a corresponding increase in infrastructure – roads, parking lots, and other impervious surfaces; culverts, bridges, and other structures at stream crossings, abutments, rip rap, and other means of bank stabilization. These all result in a variety of negative effects on environmental values: habitat fragmentation; pollution of streams and water courses; loss of coastal beaches due to changes in sediment flow patterns; interference with public access to and along the coast, coastal rivers, and upland areas; health impacts to people, fish and wildlife; and increased potential for conversion of lands from valuable agriculture, floodplain, habitat, and watersheds to other uses.

## EXISTING LAW

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The State Coastal Conservancy implements resource protection and enhancement programs within the coastal zone. The Conservancy is authorized to provide grants to local public agencies and nonprofit organizations for resource protection and enhancement purposes. The Department of Motor Vehicles may currently collect vehicle registration fees

if requested by a county air pollution control district, air quality management district, or unified regional air pollution control to be used for air pollution reduction.

## THE SOLUTION

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AB 2838 provides badly-needed funding to the 20 counties adjacent to the coast and San Francisco Bay counties that elect to adopt the Coastal Mitigation Program Fee. AB 2838 will:

- Allow counties to choose to participate through an “opt-in” structure and return the benefits of the fees generated by each county to that county;
- Assess a small user fee (up to \$6) annually on registered vehicles within these counties;
- Provide funds for local efforts to improve water quality, provide recreation and public access to the coast, and protect habitat and open space;
- Generate up to \$112 million annually for purposes of the Program, and require accountability for funds spent through a bi-annual audit of projects.

## SUPPORT

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California Coastal Coalition (Sponsor)  
California Council of Land Trusts  
The Conservation Fund

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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